

DID SHE MARRY CLEMENTS TO SAVE HIM FROM THE LAW'S GRASP?

QUESTION NOW BEING ASKED REGARDING CONFIDENTIAL CLERK OF AETNA BANKING AND TRUST COMPANY



WEDDING OF MISS McKAY TO CLEMENTS, Which Took Place in Butte, Mont.

ANY people in Washington have reason to remember Abner B. Clements, the breezy, debonair banker from Butte, Mont., who was manager of the local branch of the defunct Aetna Banking and Trust Company. Clements is under indictment by a Federal grand jury of this city for his part in the affairs of the company. Now the Treasury Department officials here fear that his marrying Miss Esther McKay, who was to have been the star witness for the prosecution through her knowledge of the company's affairs gained while she was stenographer, will prevent her from testifying against him, as the law relieves her, as a wife, of the obligation.

DID she marry him to save him from the law's grasp?

That is the question which is now being asked concerning the former Miss Esther McKay, who has just become Mrs. Abner B. Clements. Clements, who is well known in Washington, was indicted recently by a Federal grand jury of this city for his part in the affairs of the defunct Aetna Banking and Trust Company. The Washington branch of this bank, whose main office was in Butte, Mont., was located at 1222 F street.

Clements was formerly manager and cashier of the institution, and for the past two years Miss McKay had been his "confidential" clerk. She has an intimate knowledge of all the business, and Clements trusted her implicitly. The authorities here, it is said, have been depending upon her as a star witness in the proceedings which are to be begun against Clements.

The little woman, however, has spooled the nicely laid plans of the Treasury Department officials by marrying, in Dillon, Mont., the man against whom she was expected to testify. Whether this was her object in becoming his wife, or whether she would have married him anyhow, cannot be decided.

"Good Fellow" in Washington.

When Mr. Clements arrived in Washington as manager of the local branch, he brought with him all the dash and cheerfulness of the breezy Western town.

He was good-looking, natty in his

attire, fond of friendship, and, in short, a "good fellow." To the good things of life, such as fine dinners, the theater, motoring, and the like, he was partial. A pretty face or a graceful form never escaped his observation. He was known as "a good spender," and was extremely popular in the circles in which he moved.

The Washington home of Mr. Clements was at 3105 Mt. Pleasant street. He easily made friends among the Navy Department officials and clerks, being himself a graduate of Annapolis Naval Academy, where he later was instructor in high explosives, and having served in the navy for several years. He had resigned his commission before moving West, to Helena, Mont., where he met his first wife, who still is living in that city.

Divorced From First Wife.

Clements, it has been learned, was separated from his first wife less than a year ago by the courts of Helena, Mont. An absolute divorce followed.

It was thought that after Mr. Clements obtained his divorce from his first wife, that he was ambitious to marry a rich woman. If he married at all a second time. But he has shown that it was not money he sought, for Miss McKay brought him no fortune.

Helena also was the place in which he first met and was drawn toward Miss McKay, it is said.

On going to Butte as cashier and manager of the Aetna Bank, Mr. Clements wanted a woman who was not merely capable, but whom he could trust implicitly with the business affairs of the institution.

He had known Miss McKay for some time, and believed that she was just the woman he wanted. So she was engaged, and she has been his "confidential" clerk ever since, that is to say, until she became engaged to him in another way.

Miss McKay Striking Figure.

Miss McKay was known as bright and witty, and Mr. Clements was attracted by the charm of her personality. She is of striking personal appearance and always attracted notice on the street by her almost perfect features and by her graceful figure and carriage.

After his separation from his first wife, Mr. Clements, it is said, began gradually to show Miss McKay a good deal of attention. His friends, therefore, are not much surprised at this apparently unexpected step.

The wedding took place in the Butte Presbyterian Church, the Rev. A. B. Martin, pastor, officiating.

After the ceremony the couple left for Southern California, where they will spend an extended honeymoon.

Clements was not connected with the Aetna Bank at the time of the failure, having sold out his interests about a year ago. But it is charged that, as an official of the bank, he had taken part in the work of securing certain char-

ters in violation of the Federal laws. Miss McKay was employed by Mr. Clements when he was cashier of the bank, and when he was called out of the city she was left in charge of his affairs. She is said to be a woman of exceptional business ability, and she could throw light on all of his business transactions during the past few years.

At the present time he is manager of the Dillon Consolidated Mining Company, a concern which he organized. When he left the bank, about a year ago, he established an office in Dillon, to which place Miss McKay went as his assistant and confidential clerk. He has been devoting his time, recently, to his mining interests.

When the Aetna Banking and Trust Company branch in Washington was closed by the authority of the Acting Comptroller, among the collateral in possession of the bank was found Canon City, Florence, and Royal Gorge International Railroad Company's paper, stock of the Dividend Mining and Milling Company of Arizona, of the Osage Consolidated Oil and Gas Company of Arizona, and of the Helena and Dillon Gold Mining Company.

Acting Comptroller Kane said: "I don't care to give the amounts of the different items held. They all seem to be unknown and of doubtful value, and I should say that the de-

ABNER B. CLEMENTS, Who Was Manager of the Washington Branch of the Aetna Banking and Trust Company Until It Was Closed.

positors will likely lose a large share of their money."

Looked to Heinze.

The depositors, the majority of whom were poor people, hoped that the famous copper and mining king, F. Augustus Heinze, who was the former president of the bank, and who was still supposed to be heavily interested in it, would see that they did not lose their small and much-needed savings. The investments of the bank, it is said, were largely of a speculative character, and most of them were made in Western mines. There was also a New York office, but nothing was found there except desk room. All the books and papers, it was stated, had been shipped to Butte. The house bank in Butte closed its doors as soon as the news reached there that the Washington branch was closed.

In the warrant which was issued on October 26, it was charged that a false affidavit had been made in regard to the assets of the Illinois Security Company. It was said that John T. Houg, cashier at the time of the crash, had given a certificate of deposit for 10 per cent of the capital of the company. This certificate, it was alleged, was fraudulent.

Reported in Washington.

Mr. Clements did not hear at once of the indictment which was returned against him by the Federal grand jury of this city, and it was not until he was advised to go to Washington by his father, who lives in the East, that he dropped his business in Montana and reported to the authorities here.

sees summoned before her marriage could she now be compelled to tell what she knows of her husband's business affairs?

The law of the District of Columbia says on this point, section 1068: "In both civil and criminal proceedings, husband and wife shall be competent, but not compellable to testify for or against each other."

And the Montana code says that "except with the consent of both, or in cases of criminal violence upon one by the other, neither husband nor wife is a competent witness for or against each other in a criminal action or proceeding to which one or both are parties."

Another "Witness Wedding."

A few months ago there was a woman in Washington who married a man at the advice of her lawyer. It is alleged, so that she could not be compelled to take the stand against him. She married him on Saturday, and on the following Monday he was sentenced to six years in the penitentiary, there being enough evidence without that of the wife to convict him of the alleged crime. She, however, could not have been compelled in any case to testify against him. His name was William Allen and he had attacked her. It was alleged, cutting her very severely with a knife. The allegations were that he concealed himself behind some furniture in the room, and when another man entered, of whom he was jealous, Allen rushed out and cut the woman, Fannie Allen. She was in love with Allen, however, and married him, it is said, in order to try to save him from punishment.

In this case it was not necessary to raise any question as to whether it would be possible under any circumstances to compel a wife to testify against her husband. There was evidence to convict the guilty party.

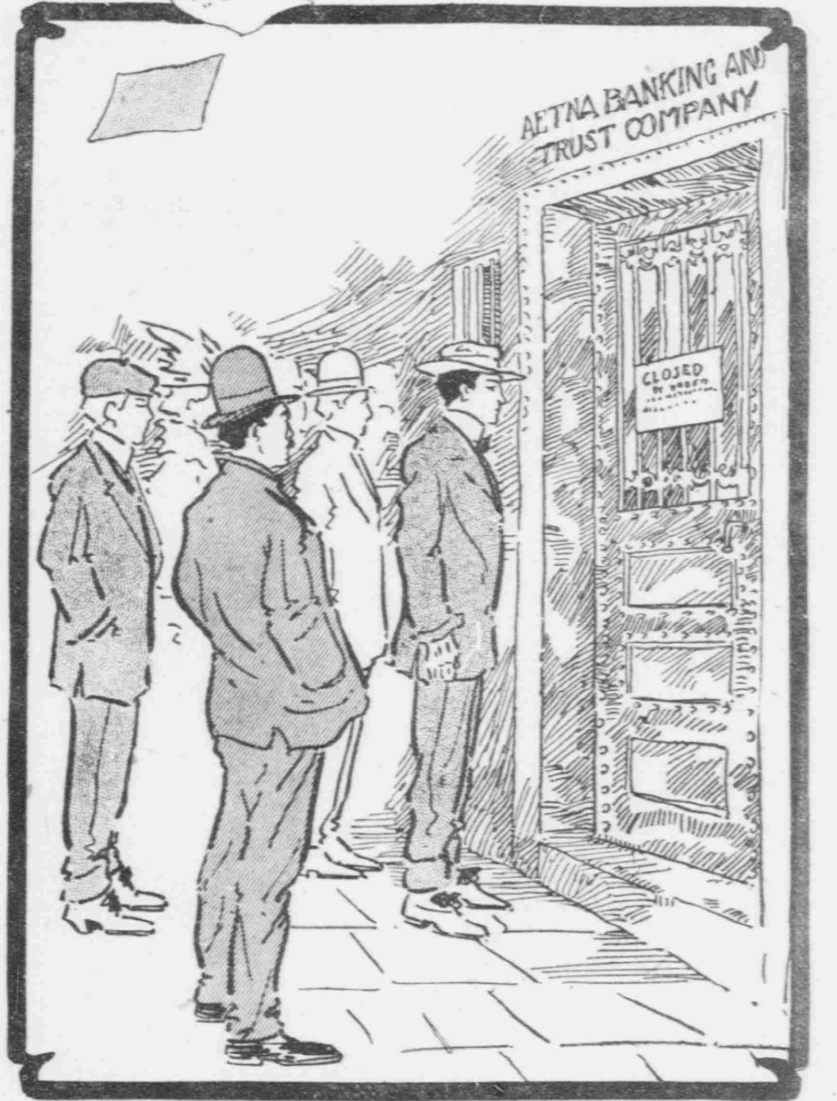
Before the year 1902 neither husband nor wife could testify against each other in the District. And in an interesting case which came before the Appeal Court several years ago the question was raised as to whether a wife was a competent witness to testify for her husband.

Peter Trometer had been convicted in Police Court for selling liquor on Sunday, but the cause had gone to the Appeal Court on a writ of error. Mrs. Trometer, who had sold the liquor, testified that she had done so without the knowledge or consent of her husband.

"I sold it just to get a little pin money for myself," she said, "and I didn't tell him a thing about it. So the first he knew of it was when the warrant was served up him."

Court Didn't Decide.

She testified in court that her husband had gone out for a walk on the Sunday evening when she sold some whisky to two policemen, and that he



Havoc Wrought by the Earthquake in Kingston



This Scene, Showing the Vista of Large Port Royal Street, in Kingston, Jamaica, Is Typical of the Destruction Wrought by the Recent Earthquake.

About the "Ku Klux Klan" of Europe

THE story of Macedonia is the story of the Ku Klux Klan in the South, as it was right after the war. Macedonia is the great cesspool of European nationalities. The Turks are the ruling element, but after them the nationalities greatest in numbers are the Bulgarian and the Greek. The Bulgarians tell you that they are even more numerous than the Turks, and it is possible. No real census of Turkey in Europe has ever been taken, or is likely to be taken as long as taxes are proportionate to population. Nevertheless there are enough Bulgarians in Macedonia to make every last Greek shiver in his boots when he is alone at night on the Sultan's highway.

The Bulgarians wish to show the world this numerical supremacy of theirs in order that when the balance of power of Europe is overthrown, as the possibilities at all times promise, and when Europe causes a division of

Macedonia, the Bulgarians will be given this area, and restore to Prince Ferdinand the old Bulgar empire that existed centuries ago. The desire is a laudable one, and so they claim, it justifies the means taken. Macedonia, aside from the four great cities, is made up of villages. Peasants dare not live isolated on their farms, save in rare instances, and the houses in consequence are grouped together. Each morning every one goes out from the village to the surrounding meadows and patches.

IN GERMANY, OF COURSE.

A German newspaper of recent date contains a news item in which a linen-infanterieregimentsamburmajor and a hofschaulpielhausgarderobeausfuehrer are the conspicuous figures. These appellations look more formidable than "regimental drum major of infantry" and "wardrobe keeper of the royal theater."

During their sojourn in southern California, Mr. and Mrs. Clements will have a good opportunity to discuss the question as to whether she shall testify in his behalf. If the case comes up for trial.

But will it be possible in any way to get Mrs. Clements to testify if the case comes to trial?

It is not known that she was summoned as a witness; but if she had

was in any way responsible for what she had done, her testimony did not prejudice the case against her husband, as she spoke in his favor; and so the court did not decide the question as to whether her testimony could be considered in deciding the case.

In the State of Montana, therefore, the testimony of a wife could not testify against her indicted husband without his consent and her own. In the District of Columbia she may testify if she chooses, but she cannot be compelled to do so.

How Common Colds Often Are Acquired.

SIR LAUDER BRUNTON, M. D., makes a very interesting reference, in the course of a recently delivered address, to the process of infection whereby a common cold in the head is acquired.

If he took a book from the top shelf of his library he was apt to suffer from a cold in his head. Infection was no doubt produced by the microbes that had formed part of the dust which accumulated everywhere, and which has been disturbed by the action of moving the book. Sir Lauder Brunton tells us that so regularly were his sufferings thus caused, that he took to sponging the top of a book before using it. This is a new illustration of the close connection existing between dust and disease, and it may well be that when a cold in the head goes the round of a house infection may have been diffused from one source, apart from the fact that colds are no doubt

infections, their microbes, being diffused very abundantly by the act of sneezing.—London Illustrated News.

THE BOASTER.

Is he one of the many who boast Of the things they are going to do Some day? Or one of the eager few Who are working away With little to say, Doing the things you have set For yourself, but which, in your profitless play, You haven't begun as yet? He requires no talent to boast Of the things he is going to do Some day. The rooster's a boaster, too, And an ass may brag In a boastful way, But the work that remains undone Has never since knowledge began to pay Brought honor to anyone. —S. E. Kiser, in Chicago Record-Herald.

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